

Serial No.: 10/524,864

Docket No.: 17952

Amendment after FINAL dated October 16, 2007

Response to the FINAL Office Action dated July 16, 2007

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

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Listing of claims:

1-16. (Canceled)

10 17. (Previously presented) A method of treating obesity in a patient, comprising the steps of:

 implanting a gastric banding device around the stomach of the patient to create a stoma; said gastric banding device having an inflatable chamber;

 remotely transmitting control signals from outside of the patient to a controller of
15 the gastric banding device inside of the patient; and

 actuating a first valve, between a pressurized fluid reservoir and said inflatable chamber, or a second valve, between said inflatable chamber and an outlet, on the basis of the control signals received by the controller to increase or decrease the fluid volume in said inflatable chamber, wherein the pressure in said pressurized fluid reservoir remains
20 greater than or equal to the pressure in said inflatable chamber, thereby adjusting an inner circumference of the band.

 18. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein the control signals are remotely transmitted using a remote control.

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 19. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein the controller has a receiver for receiving the control signals.

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20. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein said inflatable chamber is substantially coextensive with an inner stomach-facing surface of said gastric banding device band.

5 21. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein said gastric banding device band forms a smoothly surfaced circle.

22-24. (Canceled)

10 25. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the control signals are RF signals and the method further comprises operating a remote control to remotely transmit control signals to the controller.

15 26. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein the remote control is a handheld device.

27. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein the remote control is a computer.

20 28. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the control signals are RF signals, and the controller has a unique identification code assigned thereto, wherein the step of remotely transmitting control signals from outside of the patient comprises first entering the unique identification code.

25 29. (New) The method according to claim 17, further comprising a power source for providing power to the controller, the first valve, and the second valve, selected from the group consisting of:

an induction coil;

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a battery; and

a capacitor.

30. (New) The method according to claim 17, further comprising a piezo-electrically
5 charged capacitor for providing power to the controller, the first valve, and the second valve.

31. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein a pressure P1 within the
pressurized fluid reservoir is initially greater than a pressure P2 in the inflatable chamber, and P2
is initially greater than a pressure P3 at the outlet, wherein the step of actuating the first valve
10 reduces P1 in favor of P2, and the step of actuating the second valve reduces P2 in favor of P3.

32. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the outlet is in fluid
communication with the peritoneal cavity of the patient, and the step of actuating the second
valve releases fluid volume from within the inflatable chamber to the peritoneal cavity.
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33. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the outlet is a waste reservoir,
and the step of actuating the second valve releases fluid volume from within the inflatable
chamber to the waste reservoir.

20 34. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the step of implanting
comprises laparoscopic placement of the gastric banding device.

35. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein the gastric banding device
comprises a body portion with a head end having a buckle and a tail end, wherein the step of
25 implanting includes inserting the tail end into the buckle of the head end and locking the tail end in
place within the buckle.

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36. (New) The method according to claim 35, wherein the gastric banding device further comprises a pull tab on the head end, wherein the step of locking the tail end in place within the buckle is done by pulling the pull tab.

5 37. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the gastric banding device comprises a band body with an inner stomach-facing surface, and the inflatable chamber is located on the inner stomach-facing surface of the band body.

10 38. (New) The method according to claim 37, wherein the fluid reservoir is located on the outer stomach-facing surface of the band body opposite the inner stomach-facing surface.

15 39. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the band body comprises a head end having a buckle and a tail end, and a fill tube connected to the tail end to which the fluid reservoir is connected.

20 40. (New) The method according to claim 17, further including a fill port and fill tube connected to the gastric banding device and in fluid communication with the inflatable chamber, the method further including adjusting the fluid volume within the inflatable chamber from outside the body by transdermal injection through the fill port.

41. (New) The method according to claim 17, further including an access port in fluid communication with the fluid reservoir, the method further including refilling the fluid reservoir from outside the body through the access port.

25 42. (New) The method according to claim 17, further including replacing the fluid reservoir.

43. (New) The method according to claim 17, further including measuring fluid flow through the first valve.